

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – Weds., December 13, 7:30PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Attending: Eliza Burden, John Ellis, Mara Vatz, Mary Ellen Aronow, Steve Moore, Ed Trembly, and Tim Lecuivre, Four visitors: Rachel Stark, Brian, Anne (Spy Pond shoreline restoration issue), one other

1. **7:35 – 7:40 Approve October and November meeting minutes** – approved.
2. **7:40 – 8:00 DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)**
 - General update: finished up fall planting of 100 bare root trees. Some streets were very interested in trees – Grafton St, Gray St. Also planted 2 balled and burlup trees: 1 at Park Circle and another at Summer Street/Forest Street (crab apple) = 102 total trees; Tim explained that the 150,000k spent by Town since the end of July to address the backlog of tree work resulted in 286 trees pruned plus 145 tree removals. Tim says there are already 70 planting requests in WebQ/A for the Spring
 - Our tree inventory will be updated with the Fall planting list and tree removals when Adam completes the new GIS system for trees in town. Tim will follow up with Adam to get sense of when this project will be complete
 - Watering of new trees; Eliza will send video of watering, MEA will add to website
 - Tree hearing(s) – Dec 4, 8 Higgins Street was denied; now it's on agenda for the January BoS meeting
 - Increase/clarify fine Ch 87 fee – being discussed in DPW.
3. **8:00 – 8:05 Tree Preservation Bylaw fee increase (Susan/Mary Ellen)**
 - ATC is investigating whether a change in the fee change for bylaw to better capture the full value of taking down a tree (\$/dbh? as is the ch 87 fee). Would a warrant be needed or could this be administrative? ATC working with Town Counsel.
 - should we be capturing some of the problems/changes desired for the tree bylaw into one rolled up change? (e.g change in fee; and request that tree plans also include any public shade trees near the property)
 - Could a Google Sheet of approved tree plans be put on the website to limit Tim's time of responding to residents concerns about trees being taken down or cranes working? Could we follow the Building Department way of putting permit info on the Town website. STEVE volunteered to talk to Joan Roman about the current building permit process and how a similar process could be set up for tree plans.
4. **8:05 – 8:15 Publicity (Eliza)**
 - Vision 2020 Question drafts submitted to Mike and Tim and Juli Brazile of Vision 2020 for mock up; Eliza will send draft to ATC for review
 - Facebook, Googlegroups
 - Inventory celebration and BU professor has agreed to come present her research. Need an ATC lead for this event
5. **8:15 – 8:35 Inventory/Management Plan update (John/Mara, Eliza/Mary Ellen)**

- Feedback from Meeting with Tim and Mike R regarding plan goals: Town Manager suggested to DPW that \$25k from Bequest, plus \$50k extra from Town, combined with the regular budget of \$40k = \$115k for tree planting. Now discussion is how do you plant more trees/water more trees with the new money, given the Town resources as they are now. Molly from DCR said no other town is planting any more than 500 trees /year. Other towns have interns water, contractors to plant and water
- Document content to fulfill grant requirements= unclear if a full blown Mgmt plan is needed to fulfill grant.
- Mara, Tim and John did research on neighboring town's to examine planting and watering practices: **Cambridge**: \$1k per tree total plant+water+maintain for years 1+2. And, watering of each tree is being tracked by GPS system to assure they are watering. If they water well, a \$200 bonus per tree is given. Additionally, **Cambridge** has 'ambassadors' (college age; \$16/hr) who have keys to hydrants and water trees during years 3, 4 and 5. If no hydrant near tree, they talk to home owners and do community outreach. They do some mulching as well and they update the town's tree inventory. (Arlington's water department does not even like fire dept to open hydrants). Mara talked to forester in **Somerville**, contractors get a permit with the city to use hydrants for watering. Have planted 600 trees over several years using contractors, and the cost per tree is \$70/year/tree. **Medford** uses contractor, \$520/tree - planting tree, cost of tree, and fill bag once (2.5 – 3.0 caliper). **Lexington** has a DPW specific employee to water April – Sept. Contractor \$230/tree to install. Contractor also used for watering at a cost of \$1080/day for one worker with truck (uses DPW water) or \$135/hr. **Brookline** plants 400 – 500 trees per year, all planted by DPW, Watering is done at \$48/hour by a landscape company.
- Budget for pruning and maintenance – Tim will ask Mike for some time to plan
- Software for keeping up tree inventory – Adam K is working on it – ATC has asked Tim to find out an ETA from Adam.
- Plan review process – not discussed

6. 8:35 – 8:45 ATC Housekeeping (Eliza/Mary Ellen) – not discussed

- Committee Roles and Responsibilities (Chair terms, minutes, etc),
- Town Committee – what it means, protocol for speaking/writing on behalf of ATC
- New member push

7. 8: 45- 9:00 New Business

- T-shirts (Eric/Eliza) – Eric ordered and Eliza will follow up with how they were paid
- Correspondence –
 - A. american chestnut seeds test to plant and grow. – Eliza, Ed, Mara, 2 visitors want seeds. John will follow up
 - B. Friends of SpyPond, Conservation Commission, Parks/Rec Commission, and Community Development are restoring Spy Pond shoreline – plans are at 30% development – visitor informed committee the last meeting announced they are close to 60% plan. Plan on Conservation Commission website, yet dated 2016. Invasive trees have been marked around the pond. Concern by visitor that the plan may be to take down any tree that is an invasive species. Lila Sheppard, Environmental Planner from Conservaton Commission is one of the folks leading this

project. Tree Warden was contacted about specific potentially private trees on Spring Valley. Tim warned that all public trees may need a posted sign (as in Ch 87) before removal. Tim is meeting with Town planning dept on another issue next week and will follow up about this project. John is presenting to Climate Change group, which Lila Sheppard is leading, and will also follow up. Town Manager should be talked to on the Spy Pond shoreline restoration.

- Spring private tree planting (John/Mary Ellen) – not discussed

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, January 10